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April 19, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) FDA Department of Health and Human Services 5630 fishers Lane Room1061 Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA:

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the proposed rules, which would regulate the raw shellfish industry.

These potential rules would impose unnecessary limitation of food products available to consumers. For my restaurant, which currently sells a large volume of raw oysters, mandatory post harvest treatment will accomplish only two things.

First, since the cost of this treatment is so high per oyster, prices will rise dramatically. And second, demand will drop, hurting my business immensely.

I urge you not to regulate this industry. There is enough education about raw shellfish consumption out there. Consumers deserve the right to decide for themselves!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

R. Glen Armantrout Director of Operations

988-0504

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